

# State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster

## Budget Communications Memo

### Milwaukee Proposals



#### **Background**

To lessen the threat to education in Wisconsin's largest city, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster's budget proposes grants for schools to extend the school year into the summer, funding to restore arts education to Milwaukee Public Schools schools, support for the Preschool to Grade 5 and service-learning programs, and provisions to address the current state funding flaw related to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, helping Milwaukee taxpayers and the public schools.

#### **Budget Request**

	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>
<b>Arts in MPS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
Provide funding for a competitive grant to support arts education in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) elementary schools. The grant would be awarded annually for two years for the purpose of reaching students of color and English language learners. The arts programs proposed focus on the cultural heritage of students.		
<b>Preschool-Grade 5 Program</b>	<b>\$367,700</b>	<b>\$367,700</b>
Funding for an important program to maintain efforts to close the achievement gap in high-poverty schools. The increase would be spread across the 38 schools that currently participate in the program.		
<b>Extended Calendar Pilot Grants to MPS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
Provide grants in FY09 to MPS for up to three extended calendar pilot projects. An extended-year calendar is where a school goes beyond the traditional 180 days and/or summer school offerings to provide additional days of classroom instruction. Summer learning loss will be reduced during a shorter summer break.		
<b>Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) Re-estimate and Funding Change</b>	<b>\$8,524,000</b>	<b>\$18,340,000</b>
A re-estimate of the MPCP as required by current law. In addition, this request includes a change in the state's share of funding for the MPCP from the current 55 percent to 75 percent of the annual cost of the program.		
<b>Restore Driver Education Aid for Low-Income Pupils</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
Provides \$150 per pupil for MPS students taking an approved driver education course. To qualify for the aid, eligible students' families or guardians would need to be free and reduced-price lunch income-eligible, and MPS would reduce their driver education student fee by \$150.		

***Investing in our Future***